

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-01 SES-02 PM-05 NSC-05
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R 090923Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9596
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SECRET BEIRUT 5229

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: LE SY IS PINS PEPR
SUBJ: REMARKS OF NLP MEMBER NABIL NUJAYM ON RELATIONS WITH
SYRIA AND ALLEGED ISRAELI THREATS

1. NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

2. NABIL NUJAYM TOLD EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 8 THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS HAD JUST INFORMED NLP THAT HE WAS SEEKING A MEETING WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL ASSAD. SARKIS HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD PROPOSE TO ASSAD THAT LEBANESE SOLDIERS BE DEPLOYED IN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT AND THAT THE NUMBER OF SYRIAN SOLDIERS IN BOTH PARTS OF THE CITY BE CORRESPONDINGLY REDUCED. SARKIS HAD WARNED NLP, HOWEVER, THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD DEMAND SOMETHING IN RETURN. (COMMENT: LEBANESE MUSLIMS MIGHT OBJECT TO USE OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO PERFORM SECURITY FUNCTIONS, BECAUSE THEY ALLEGE IT IS PREJUDICED AGAINST THEM.)

3. NABIL NUJAYM COMMENTED THAT SARKIS DID NOT SAY WHAT THE SYRIANS WOULD ASK FOR, BUT NUJAYM BELIEVED IT WOULD

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BE A FORMAL SECURITY PACT. HE SAID THE NLP WOULD NOT OBJECT IF SARKIS AND ASSAD AGREED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD CONSULT ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD DEVELOP CLOSE ECONOMIC TIES. THE NLP, HOWEVER, ABSOLUTELY REJECTED A FORMAL SECURITY PACT, BECAUSE IT WOULD ALLOW THE SYRIANS TO INTERVENE IN LEBANON ANY TIME THEY WISHED. (COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT SARKIS

WOULD REJECT SUCH A PACT AS WELL).

4. NUJAYM SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN ONE AMERICAN M-16 WHICH HAD ARRIVED FROM ISRAEL. HE ASSUMED THERE WERE MANY MORE BUT HAD NOT SEEN THEM. HE SAID HE HAD ALSO SEEN 155 MM ARTILLERY PIECES AND 160 MM MORTARS WHICH HAD ARRIVED FROM ISRAEL. HE DID NOT KNOW WHO MANUFACTURED THE 155'S, BUT SAID THE MORTARS WERE RUSSIAN.

5. NUJAYM ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD WARNED HIM THAT "HE WAS TALKING TOO MUCH" AND THAT HIS LIFE COULD BE IN DANGER. HE ASKED THAT WE NOT REVEAL HIM AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM THAT WE KEPT HIS STATEMENTS IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. (COMMENT: NUJAYM MAY BE DOING NO MORE THAN SHOOTING HIS MOUTH OFF ABOUT THREATS, BUT WE ASK ADDRESSEES TO PLEASE PROTECT HIM AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION).

PARKER

NOTE BY OC/T: THIS MESSAGE APPEARS TO CONTAIN SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.

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NNN

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